

Capsule Summary
SM-550
Fenwick Street Fire House
Leonardtown
Private

1932

The Fenwick Street Fire House is a significant two story, three bay brick building located on the south side of Fenwick Street in Leonardtown, Maryland. Erected in 1932 to replace a metal sheathed building, the fire house was one of many improvements in public services that occurred in Leonardtown in the mid-twentieth century. The fire house differed, however, in several ways from other public projects. Constructed during the great depression using funds from the Works Progress Administration, the building's construction represented an opportunity for locally unemployed persons to work. Despite a drastic increase in Leonardtown's population during the 1940s, the building adequately served the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Company until 1964 when it moved to its present location at the southwest corner of Lawrence Avenue and Barthelme Street.

Since its initial construction, the building has experienced several alterations over time. These changes included a one story cinder block addition on the south side, replacement of the north side garage bays with a centrally located door flanked by fixed pane windows, installation of a large gable roof door hood supported by two square columns with irregularly laid stone bases, several windows on the first floor of the west elevation have been boarded over and finally the interior has been converted into a meeting space. Despite these alterations, the building retains its original fenestration and overall form. The building is significant, therefore, for its retention of these character defining architectural features and for its association with the Works Progress Administration.

SM-550, Fenwick Street Fire House
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Modern Period, 1930-
Historic Period Theme:	Architecture, Public Services

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Town
Historic Function and Use:	Fire House
Known Design Source:	None

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-550

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Fenwick Street Fire House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number S side of East Fenwick Street

___ not for publication

city, town Leonardtown

___ vicinity of

congressional district 3

state Maryland

county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	___ not applicable	___ no	___ military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: club house

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name St. Mary's Council Club

street & number East Fenwick Street

telephone no.:

city, town Leonardtown

state and zip code Maryland 20650

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse

liber 169

street & number

folio 302

city, town Leonardtown

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-550

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Fenwick Street Fire Department Building is situated on a flat, .33 acre tract on West Fenwick Street in Leonardtown, Maryland. The building is oriented on a north/south axis with its primary (north) elevation facing the street. On the other three sides the building are bounded by a parking lot to the west and south and a frame garage to the east. The property also contains a pair of cinder block fire-training towers that extend approximately thirty to forty feet above ground level.

Constructed in the mid-late 1920s, the Fire Department building is a two story, three bay, brick building with a one story cinder block addition to the south. The brick is laid in an irregular common bond that varies in ratio from five-to-one and six-to-one to an all stretcher bond. Both the main block and the one story addition feature a flat roof.

Much of the building's original appearance was altered when the building was converted from a fire station to a meeting place. This is most dramatically seen on the north or primary elevation. On the first floor, the three, symmetrically placed garage door bays were filled in with windows and irregularly laid stonework. The middle bay, however, received a modest gable roof portico supported by square wood columns and stone piers. This portico shades a double, panelled door that features a transom and three sidelights and stonework on each side. The other two bays consist of fifteen light picture windows supported by the irregularly laid stonework. Above the three garage bays are three, symmetrically placed six-over-three windows with nonfunctional louvered shutters. Above these windows is a false parapet that hides the flat roof.

Other evidence of subsequent changes can be seen on the west side of the building. All of the windows on the first floor of this elevation have been covered over. A transition in building materials from brick to cinder block also signals a different period of construction. This addition features a four panel door and two window bays. The main block's second floor features three, six-over-three, double-hung sash windows.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-550

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	Public Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Fenwick Street Fire House is a significant two story, three bay brick building located on the south side of Fenwick Street in Leonardtown, Maryland. Erected in 1932 to replace a metal sheathed building, the fire house was one of many improvements in public services that occurred in Leonardtown in the mid-twentieth century. The fire house differed, however, in several ways from other public projects. Constructed during the great depression using funds from the Works Progress Administration, the building's construction represented an opportunity for locally unemployed persons to work. Despite a drastic increase in Leonardtown's population during the 1940s, the building adequately served the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Company until 1964 when it moved to its present location at the southwest corner of Lawrence Avenue and Barthelme Street.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-550

Interview with Edward Stokel, January 1997
Telephone interview with George Duke, February, 1997.
Telephone interview with Mary Jane Scully, February, 1997.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .33 acresQuadrangle name Leonardtown, MdQuadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed reference.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Planning and Zoningdate February 1997street & number 22740 Washington Streettelephone (301) 475-4662city or town Leonardtown, Mdstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-202
814-7600

SM-550, Fenwick Street Fire House
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title (Please note that all deeds were found in the Land Records of St. Mary's County located at the County Courthouse in Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber 169, Folio 302
Grantee: St. Mary's Council Club
Grantor: Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department
Date: December 30, 1970

Reference: Liber MRF 133, Folio 90
Grantee: St. Mary's Council Club
Grantor: Leonardtown Fire Department
Date: April 17, 1967

Reference: Liber JMM 2, Folio 435
Grantee: Harry M. Jones, trustee
Grantor: Laura G. Harding
Date: November 6, 1924
Note: This deed notes the sale of a 1/4 acre to Harry M. Jones. Eight years after the sale of the property the brick fire house is apparently built.

Reference: Liber JMM 2, Folio 354
Grantee: Laura B. Harding
Grantor: Nettie A. Morgan
Date: August 16, 1924

Reference: Liber EBA 10, Folio 283
Grantee: F. O. Morgan
Grantor: William Meverall Loker
Date: August 19, 1912
Note: This sale of the property was the result of a circuit court case that involved the default on a loan given to Max L. Millison by Ada P. Butler and J. Philip Butler. The decision occurred on May 28, 1912 and is case No. 1165 NE.

Reference: Liber EBA 6, Folio 252
Grantee: Ada P. Butler
Grantor: Max L. and Lena Millison
Date: December 26, 1906

Reference: Liber EBA 1, Folio 126-127
Grantee: Max L. Millison
Grantor: J. Felix Fenwick, Harry B. Fenwick, and Cora A. Fenwick
Date: September 2, 1899
Note: This 1/4 acre property was devised to the Grantors by Ellen R. Fenwick. This deed also notes that the parcel was once part of two other parcels. Lots 2 and 3 on the Chunn survey of 1878. This is more fully described on succeeding pages. James Gordon is also listed as living on the property.

SM-550, Fenwick Street Fire House
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Reference: Liber JFF 12, Folio 330
Grantee: Ellen R. Fenwick
Grantor: William H. and Julia A. Guy
Date: May 9, 1890

Reference: Liber JFF 5, Folio 285-286
Grantee: Julia A. Guy
Grantor: Amos M. Graves
Date: December 16, 1881

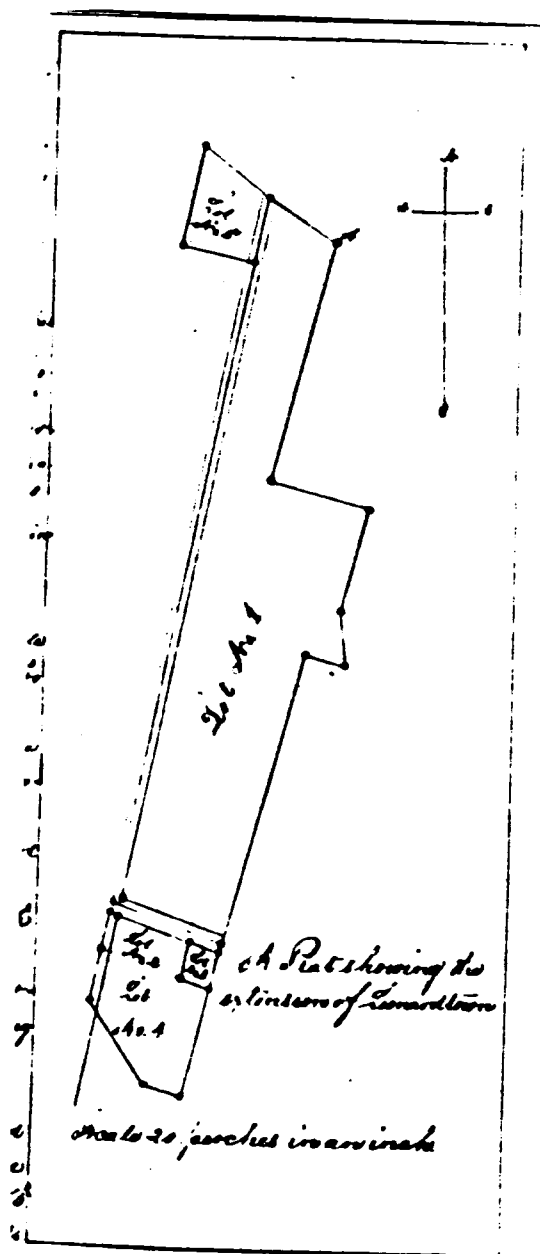
Reference: Liber JFF 5, Folio 254
Grantee: Sallie E. Graves
Grantor: Robert C. Combs and Joseph H. Key
Date: November 15, 1881

Note: This deed notes that Maria L. Key sold this property to Sallie E. Graves but did not initiate a deed. Robert C. Combs and Joseph H. Key confirm the legal sale of the land to Sallie Graves. This deed refers to the property as Lot #2 on the John Chunn survey of the extension of Leonardtown. When matched to a modern zoning map of Leonardtown this lot represents a neighboring property to the current location of the Leonardtown Fire Station. This chain-of-title therefore may be erroneous at this point.

Reference: Liber JFF 3, Folio 388-389
Date: December 7, 1878

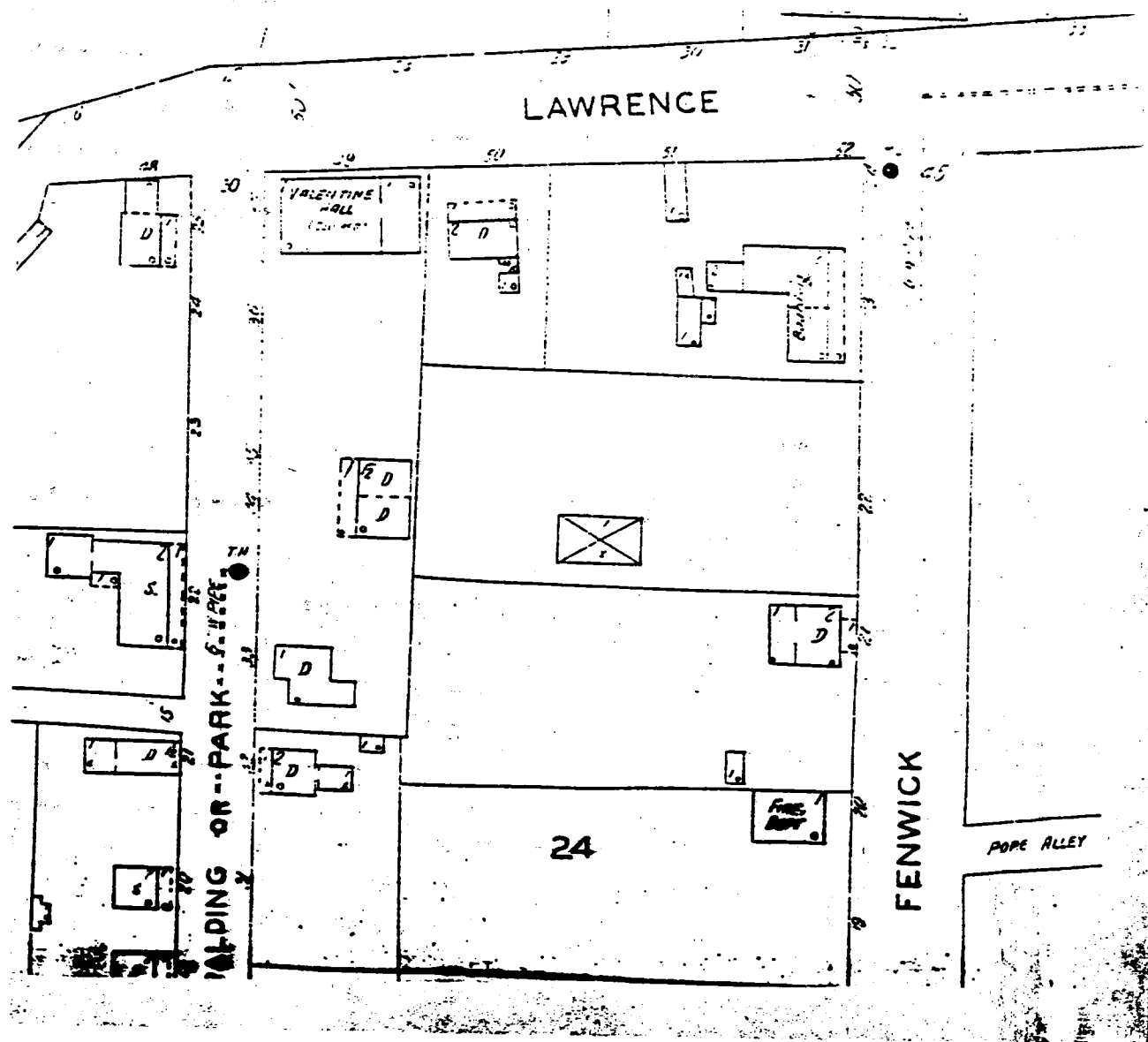
Note: This survey, laid out by John H. Chunn, was commissioned by Joseph H. Key to legalize a number of land sales made by Maria L. Key. Apparently, she did not initiate any deeds for these transactions. The Fire Station property is probably Lot # 3, which contains about 1/4 acre.

SM-550, Fenwick Street Fire House
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance



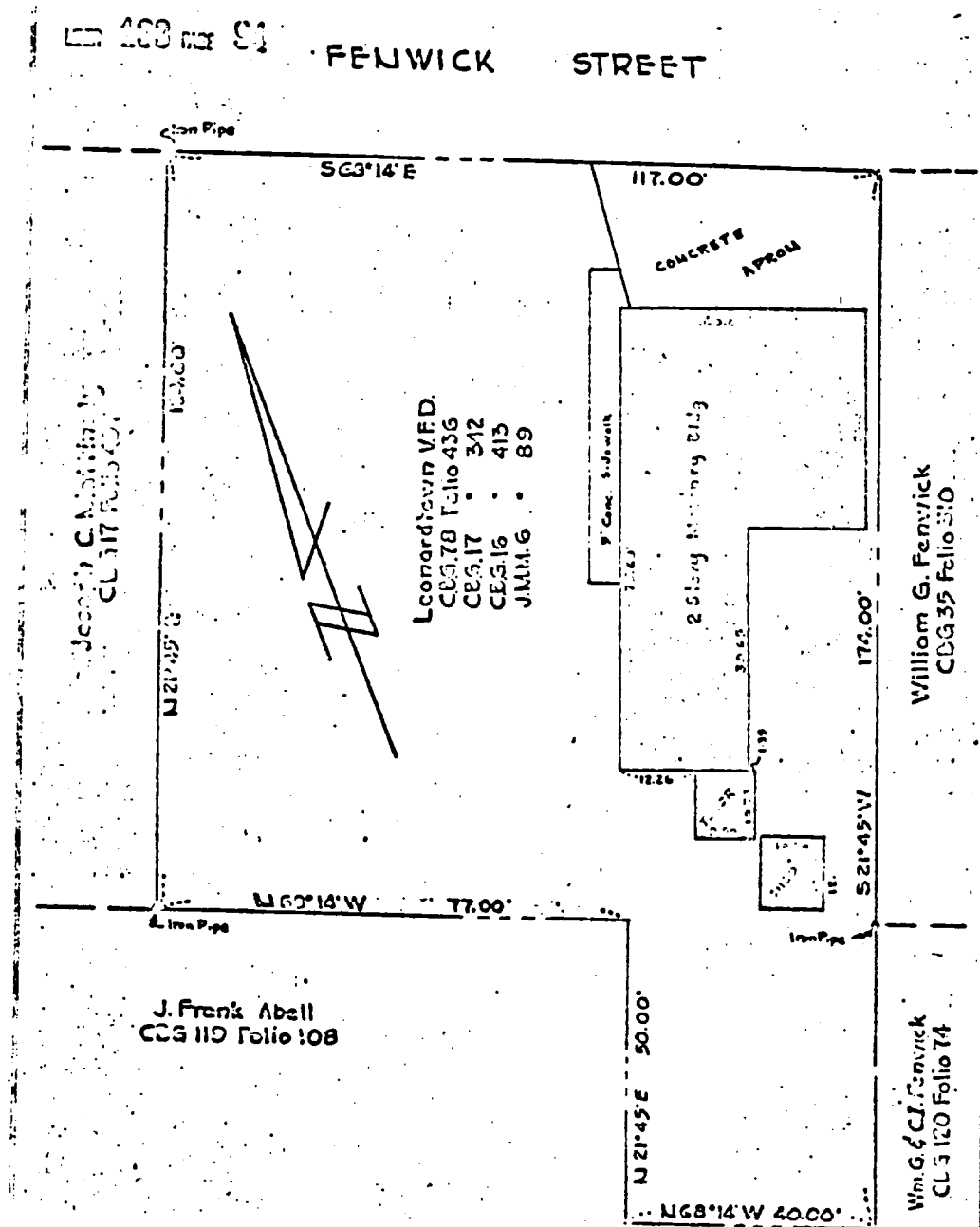
In 1878 John H. Chunn was commissioned by Joseph H. Key to survey five pieces of property once "Part of America Felix Secundus." This land was part of the systematic extension of Leonardtown in the late nineteenth century. Lot #3 represents the tract that the Fire Department building was built in the late 1920s.

SM-550, Fenwick Street Fire House
 St. Mary's County
 8.4 Significance

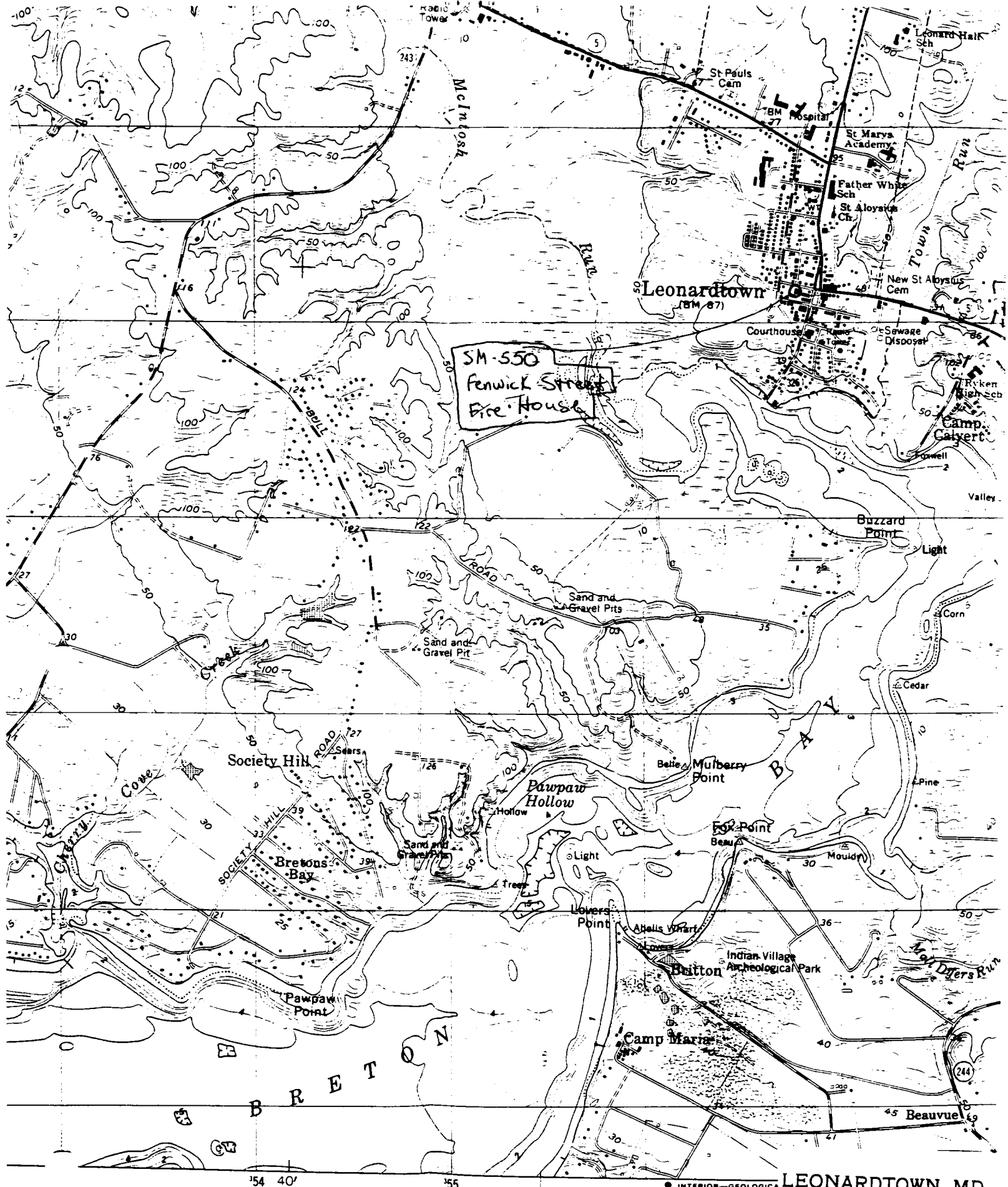


1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map of Leonardtown showing the metal sheathed Fire Station building replaced by the Fenwick Street fire house in 1932.

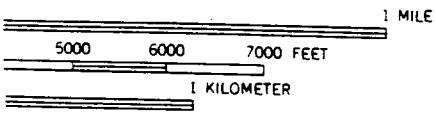
**SM-550, Fenwick Street Fire House
St. Mary's County
8.5 Significance**



1967 plat of the two story, brick and cinder block Volunteer Fire Department building on Fenwick Street.



LEONARDTOWN, MD.
SW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
38076-C6-TB-024



1963
1663
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982
PHOTOREVISED 1984
DMA 5660 1 SW-SERIES V833



